



C1003

CURA

RESOURCE COLLECTION

Project **Rediscovery**

a joint effort in community analysis, planning and design involving concerned residents of six Minnesota communities, twenty-two students of architecture and landscape architecture from the Urban Education Center of the University of Minnesota, practicing professionals volunteering through the Minnesota Society of Architects' Urban Design Assistance Teams, and counsel and funding from the Minnesota State Arts Council

participants:

Crosby, Minn.
Hoyt Lakes, Minn./East Range Historical Society
Lake Crystal, Minn.
Lincoln County/Lake Benton, Minn.
Mora, Minn.
Staples, Minn.

Urban Education Center, University of Minnesota
118 East 26 Street
Minneapolis, Minn. 55404
Roger Clemence, director
Robert Morse, associate director
Gar Hargens, environmental education consultant

School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minn. 55455
Ralph Rapson, FAIA, head
Robert Hysell, assistant professor
J. Stephen Weeks, lecturer

Community Resource Development
Agricultural Extension Service
University of Minnesota
Saint Paul, Minn. 55108
Gordon Rose, program director

Minnesota Society of Architects
Urban Design Assistance Teams
Northwestern National Bank Building
Saint Paul, Minn. 55101
Daniel J. Sheridan, executive director, MSA
James Mildes, AIA, chairman, UDATs

Minnesota State Arts Council
100 East 22 Street
Minneapolis, Minn. 55404
Louis Janson, director
Georgia DeCoster, director, Architecture Section

Project Rediscovery
October 31, 1974

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WHAT THE PROJECT IS

PROJECT REDISCOVERY, a Bicentennial self-study project to be undertaken by the Urban Education Center (UEC) of the University of Minnesota's Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, with the support of the Minnesota State Arts Council Architecture Program and the Minnesota Society of Architects' Urban Design Assistance Teams (UDAT), is providing low-cost, professionally-directed survey, planning and design services to Minnesota communities.

Advanced university students of UEC with professional guidance are working with civic and governmental leaders and high school students in the selected communities. Such projects as downtown facelifting, community restructuring and historic renovation, park design, and environmental education are typical. The effort will include a permanent record of the survey process, the design proposals and the resulting impact on the community put in a form or forms (film, video tape, brochure, slides, etc.) useful to many Minnesota communities other than those surveyed.

The average cost to communities will be \$200 to cover student travel and materials expenses. This amount will be matched on a 2 to 1, Project to community basis, to cover expenses. The Project is supported in part by a grant-in-aid awarded by the Minnesota State Arts Council with funds appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature with the assistance of the Minnesota Bicentennial Commission, the Minnesota Resource Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

WHAT THE PROJECT OBJECTIVES ARE

Project Rediscovery is an attempt to combine public service to Minnesota communities with educational opportunities for University of Minnesota students and volunteer opportunities for practicing design and planning professionals.

An important part of Project Rediscovery is the relationship which will develop among the towns, students, and professionals. The project is seen as a chance for the teams and the town to examine the future development of each community in relation to its surroundings - assessing both the positive and negative aspects of each area.

To assure meaningful involvement of community residents in the study/design process, each community has established an advisory committee. The committees, representing diverse groups within each town, will collaborate with the students in their research, give them guidance regarding the relevance of the project, and assist in the evaluation of this joint effort.

The UDAT's will work as an additional resource available to both the students and the town. The UDAT concept has been developed by the Minnesota Society of Architects to make professional planning and design assistance available to small towns in Minnesota. As practicing professionals, the UDAT's time is more limited than students'. The professionals can play at least two roles: ongoing advisor to the student teams and as a brainstorming resource over short, concentrated periods of time.

HOW THE EFFORT IS FUNDED

The budget can be seen in two ways - as phantom cost (\$37,500) and actual cost (\$12,500).

If the contributed time of students and faculty is computed, the project cost jumps to a total of \$50,000. This total cost includes a phantom cost of \$7,500 for faculty time and \$30,000 for student time in addition to the actual \$12,500 cost. Uncomputed, but of real benefit is the amount of money saved by having the students stay in local homes when a several day trip is necessary. An additional benefit is the additional opportunity for interaction between students and residents.

Actual dollar cost of Project Rediscovery for the 1974-75 academic year will be \$12,500. This cost covers coordination, service costs, and publication. Service costs cover travel, telephone, and materials used by the students for the project and presented to the communities. The service costs are estimated at \$600/community/academic year and will be covered by contributions of \$400/community project by SAC and \$200/community by the community. The Urban Education Center has created accounts for each project and will administer the funding, providing periodic accounting to each community and the State Arts Council.

HOW AND WHAT COMMUNITIES WERE CHOSEN

Criteria defining the type of community UEC and UDAT would best be able to help was established with input from the University of Minnesota School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture, the departments of Sociology, and Agriculture and Applied Economics, the Upper Midwest Council, the State Arts Council, and the Urban Education Center. The chief criteria were size, location and interest.

As initiated in fall, 1974, Project Rediscovery is working with six small communities ranging in size from 700 to 3600 population. The selected towns, Crosby, Hoyt Lakes, Lake Crystal, Lincoln County/Lake Benton, Mora, and Staples were chosen for several reasons: 1) these communities are less able to hire planning staffs, 2) each is large and vital enough to contain a physical and organizational infrastructure with enough strength to provide a working partnership for the UEC teams, 3) each has a strong desire to examine its past and present, and plan for its future, 4) the communities represent different reasons for coming into being - mining (Crosby and Hoyt Lakes), agricultural center (Lake Crystal, Lake Benton and Mora) and railroad (Staples).

As the criteria were being developed, the Community Resource Development Area agents of the University's Agricultural Extension Service were included in the planning process. These Area agents are in contact with communities in each of the state's economic development regions and were able to play a broker role between interested communities and Project Rediscovery.

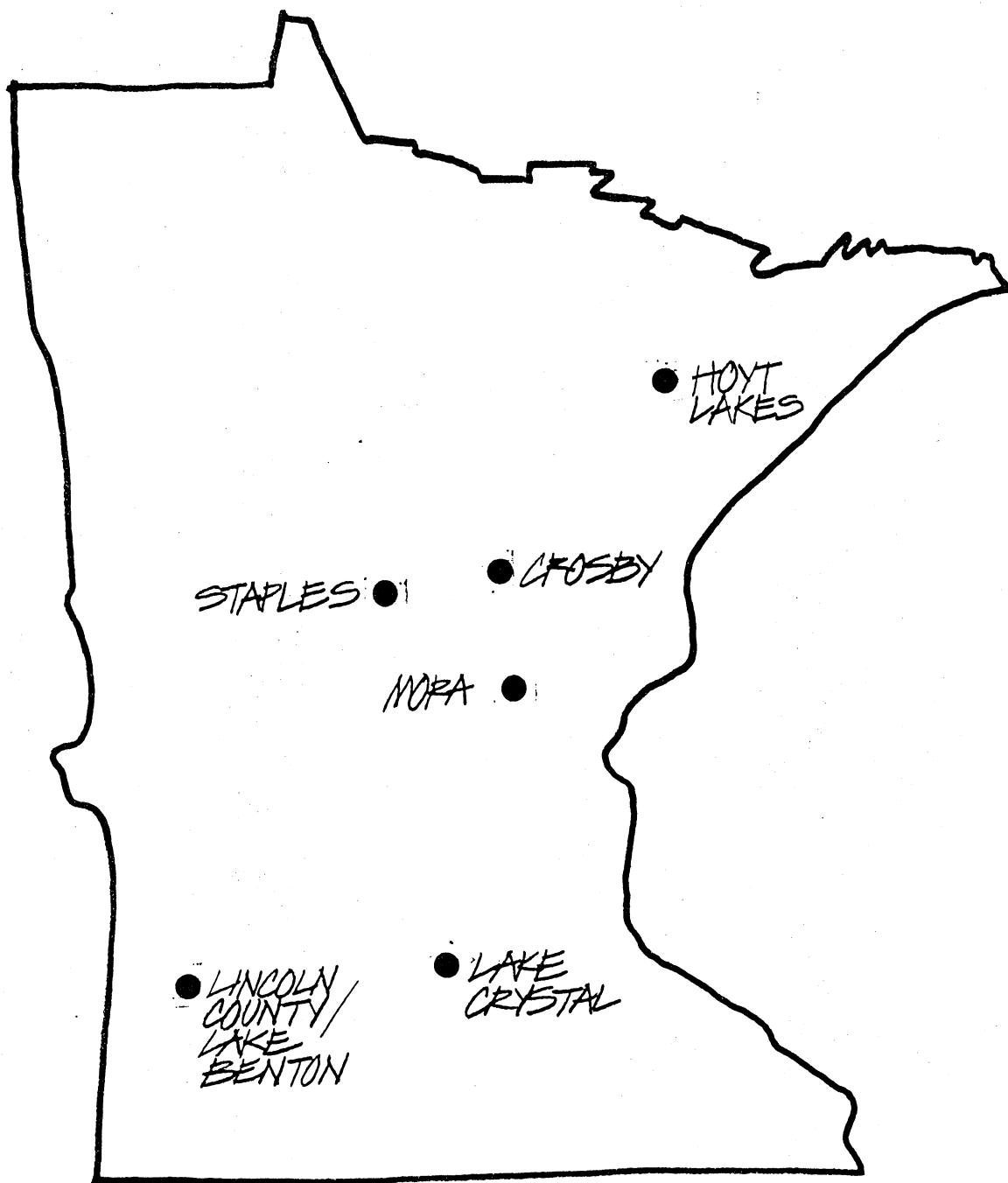
Communities wishing to participate were asked to prepare a letter of request. In it they described the project, committed \$200 to help cover expenses, and affirmed the formation of a representative advisory group to work with the student and professional teams. The selected communities were informed and arrangements were made to begin the project.

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE SO FAR

The following pages provide some data on each of the six communities and list the activities of the student teams to date.

To summarize briefly: each of the teams has met with their community an average of three times to meet people, gather data, and begin to assess the problems and potentials of each community. These trips have usually involved stays of several days to provide students with an in-depth exposure to the town. In all but one case, the students were housed in local homes, providing an additional opportunity to meet people; and, equally important, provide a chance for residents to get to know the students. To date, each team has produced drawings and data to describe their impressions of the community.

In two communities, Lake Crystal and Staples, an additional component has been added - the development of educational programs in cooperation with the two school districts. These programs will involve linking architecture and landscape architecture students with teachers and students from elementary, junior, and senior high school levels interested in using their community as a learning laboratory.



HOYT
LAKES

STAPLES

CROSBY

MORA

LINCOLN
COUNTY /
LAKE
BENTON

LAKE
CRYSTAL

CROSBY

Driving Time: 3 hrs.

1970 Population: 2,241

County: Crow Wing

County Seat: Brainerd

Sponsor: Cuyuna Range Development Committee

Existing Planning: ~~None-beyond-original-platting~~
701 Land-use plan, 1968

Project: Overall community study (population, housing, traffic, industry, position in region, economy), followed by specific design projects (park, industrial park, downtown design).

Contacts: Gary Woehler - President, Cuyuna Range Development Corp.
Crosby Hardware (218) 546-5424 546-6860 (home)
Norm Howe - Skogmos
Chamber of Commerce
Richard Lee - President, 1st National Bank
Clark Witter - city attorney

Note: No meetings Thursday afternoons during golf.

Activities to date:

1. Initial contact through Gordon Stabb - Ag. Extension Area CRD Agent
2. Lunch, Monday Sept. 16, 1974 - to explain project.
3. First student meeting set for Oct. 8, 7 p.m. - Spaulding Hotel
4. \$100 from Chamber of Commerce, Oct. 9
5. Research trip to Brainerd and Crosby, Oct. 22-25

HOYT LAKES

Driving Time: 4 1/2 hrs.

1970 Population: 3, 634

County: St. Louis

County Seat: Duluth

Sponsor: East Range Historical Society

Team: Mike Berreau
Jim Evans
Susan Hechter
Rob LaFavor

UDAT: Frank Nemeth
John Rudquist

Existing Planning: Town was ~~built in 1959~~ ^{incorporated in 1954}

Project: Study of historical/recreational sites in Aurora/Hoyt Lakes region to determine extent of tourist-serving facilities available. Design of Longyear Drill Site to accommodate daytime tourist activity (including parking, nature trails, historic reconstruction of site, graphics, tourist information)

Contacts: Albert Stimac - Pres, East Range Historical Soc. (218) 225-2724
Bob Farrell - Longyear Project Chairman
Albert Lohman - city clerk, Hoyt Lakes
R.E. Mc Cready - Longyear Company (218) 331-1331
Ben Beauclair - St. Louis Co. Road Engineer
R.B. Rhode - Chief Engineer, DM&IR Railroad

Activities to date:

1. Initial contact through Arnie Hiekkila, Ag. Extension CRD agent, Duluth.
2. Meeting with Mr. Stimac & Arnie to explain project, Friday, July 26, 1974
3. Introduction of students, Saturday, Sept. 28, 1974
4. Research in Duluth and Hoyt Lakes, Oct. 9-11
5. Present research and initial concepts to Mr. Stimac Oct. 25

LAKE CRYSTAL

Driving Time: 2 hrs.

1970 Population: 1,807

County: Blue Earth

County Seat: Mankato

Sponsor: Chamber of Commerce

Existing Planning: 701 plan in ¹⁹⁶³1969-

Team: Craig Beddow
Bill Rosenblum
Sara Schmanski
Jeff Zoller

UDAT: David Kane
Robert Quanbeck
Russ Redan
William Sanders

Project: Overall community study (population, housing, traffic, industry, relation to region), followed by specific design projects (commercial area redesign/rehabilitation, "image", parks, relation to highway).

Contacts: Robert Volness - Volness Drug (507) 726-2727 ; home 726-2361
- President, Chamber of Commerce
Betty Lou Cords - 311 E. Humphrey St.
Fred Cords
Don Ackland - banker

Note: Lake Crystal will be the site of the 1976 Farmfest, one of the key rural expositions in 1976. The sponsoring committee sees the opportunity to be a demonstration project for what is possible in small towns.

Activities to date:

1. Initial contact through Task Force on the Aesthetic Environment
2. Follow-up meeting to explain project, Friday, Sept. 20, 1974 - letter of request to follow.
3. 10-8-74 \$200 Chamber of Commerce

School: Mrs. Helen Jones - chairperson, School Board 729-2728
Chas Evans - supt. 726-2110
Lloyd Hollingworth - principal, high school
Chas. Askegard - principal, elementary school

4. Oct. 11 - first meeting with students and community
5. Oct. 16 - research in Mankato and Lake Crystal
6. Nov. 1-2 - research and meetings in Lake Crystal

LINCOLN COUNTY/LAKE BENTON

Driving Time: 3 1/2 hrs.

1970 Population: 8,143

County Seat: Ivanhoe

Sponsor: Lincoln County Planning Committee

Existing Planning: None since original platting

Team: John Longbotham
Randy Lueth
Steve Wilensky
Craig Wolfgramm

UDAT: Richard Larson
John Korngiebel

Project: Lake Benton land use plan, platting proposal, park design - of particular interest is the development of a plat plan taking advantage of the marked changes in elevation and of the lakeshore.

Contacts: Dennis Whitney - Lincoln Co. Planner
Russ Zimmer - banker, Lake Benton
Roy Miller - Mayor and County Commissioner
Arnold Klausen - County agent

Activity to date:

1. Initial contact with Dennis Whitney to explain project.
2. Introductory meeting Oct. 11-13
3. Research, land use survey Oct. 16-21

MORA

Driving Time: 1 3/4 hrs.

1970 Population: 2,582

County: Kanabec

Sponsor: Mora Park and Recreation Board

Existing Planning: 701 plan in 1968

Team: Mark Allen
Chris Olsen
Lynn Stearns

UDAT: Steve Fiskum
Greg Haley

Project: Park and Open Space Plan involving existing parks and development of newly acquired site. Examination of the potential of including Lake Mora, adjacent to business district, in open space plan. The project will require an examination of the needs of local residents, the county and tourists.

Contacts: Paul Larson - Age Extension CRD 1-679-1373
Jim McCarty - Chairman, Mora Park and Recreation; home-679-2285; Kanabee Co Times
Roland Skelton - Mora City Council 679-3010 679-1363
- County Extension Agent
Plus Lacher - Chairman, Mora Lions Betterment Committee
- Supt. Mora School District
Bob Anderson - Mayor
Carl Deis - 679-2424, 2423

Note: Some initial analysis was done during the past year.

Activities to date:

1. Initial contact through Paul Larson
2. Explanatory meeting on Friday, Sept. 13, 1974 - letter to follow.
3. Oct. 15 First student meeting in Mora
4. Oct. 25 Meeting in Mora with City Council & Park and Recreation

STAPLES

Driving Time: 3 1/4 hrs.

1970 Population: 2,761

Team: Andy Golfis
George Watson
Dick Wolfgram

County: Todd

County Seat: Long Prairie

UDAT: Wes Hendrickson
Larry Seiberlich

Sponsor: Chamber of Commerce

Existing Planning: ~~701-plan~~ Zoning ordinance, 1973

Project: Overall community study (population, commerce, housing, traffic, public services, industry, relation to region), followed by specific design projects (downtown pedestrian mall, parking, traffic flow, "image", parks).

Contacts:	Jack Wilson - dj's Men's Wear (C of C Pres.)	(218)-894-2763
	Dick Donat - school	-2430
	Bob C. Blessing	-1945
	Lee Jenkins - Jenkins Supply, Inc. (C-C Sec)	-1754
	Ed Perry - Ben Franklin	-2067
	Lynn Thornton - KWAD (Jaycees)	-2573
	Bob Sellhow - VFW Manager	-9973
	Bob Rego - school (environ. center proposal)	-2037
	(will put up students)	
	Gerald Duenow - Jerry's TV & Radio	-2817

Note: Staples is building a Cedar Shake covered walkway along each side of one business street.

Activites to date:

1. Initial contact through Jared Smalley - Asst. Dir. Concerted Services, Wadena.
2. Lunch at VFW Thursday, Sept. 19, 1974 to explain project - much interest shown - will be sending letter of request.
3. Oct. 10 - present project to total Chamber of Commerce and community representatives
4. Oct 17-18 - first student meetings and research in Staples
5. Oct 21 \$200 paid by Chamber of Commerce
6. Oct 31-Nov 1 - present initial evaluation to advisory group in Staples

☐ Rediscovery is not a "bandaid" project.
The educational program is one area where
architecture and planning are introduced
to teach skills and process and effect
long range attitudes.

☐ The educational emphasis may be practical,
how to fix something up, or abstract, the
uniqueness of a town.

☐ The efforts may be to go beyond the
physical reality that is known, to an
abstract conception of it.

☐ The effort may be to go beyond an
abstract conception that is imagined to
a physical representation of it.

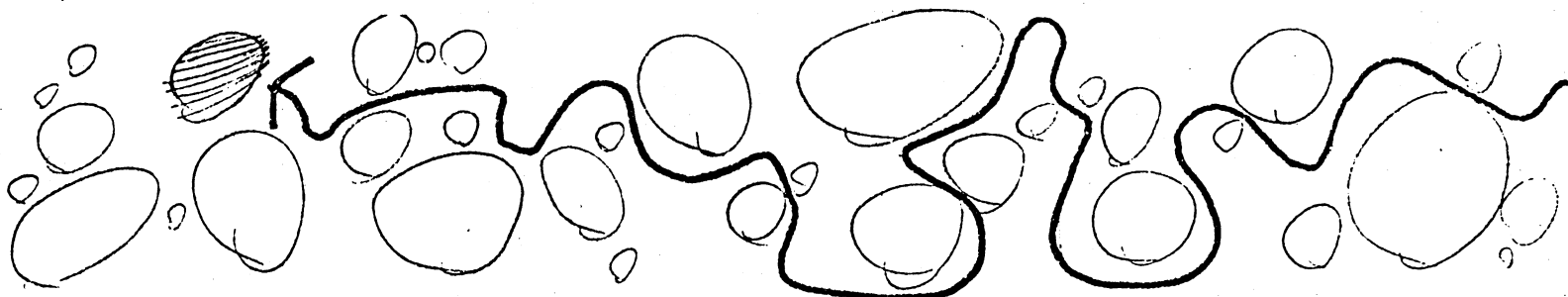
☐ The environment is a natural
learning resource for motivation
and materials.

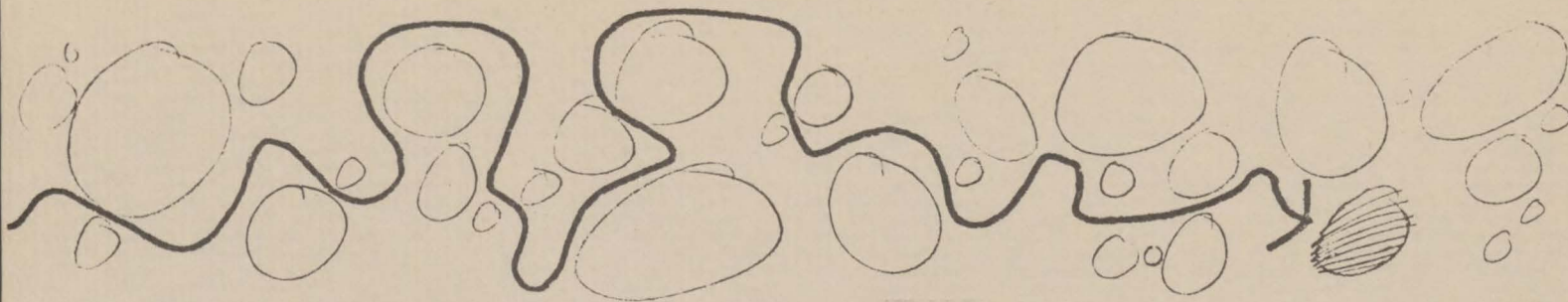
☐ Learning is a life to death
experience, especially where it
concerns the environment you
live in.

☐ The place to begin learning is with
yourself, with your environment's
strongest shaper.

☐ Rediscovery means learning to ask
questions, to establish values.

☐ Forgetting is part of rediscovery,
so is starting where you are.





OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

1974 1975

JANUARY

○ Rediscovery education program presented to school officials and Chamber of Commerce for approval.

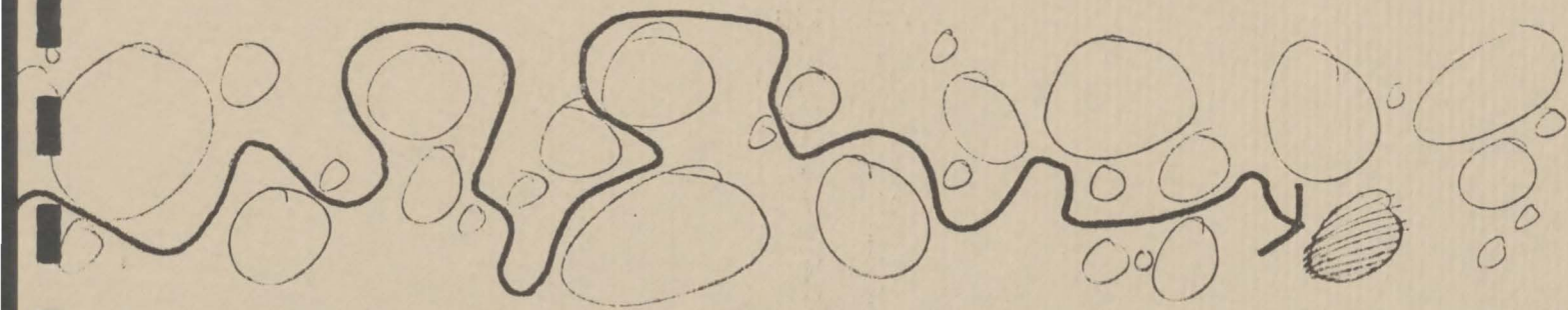
○ Program scheduled with Bill Uhrich, high school principal.

○ Presentation of program given, individual projects discussed.

Staples

○ Projects reviewed, more individual projects scheduled.





1974 1975

OCTOBER

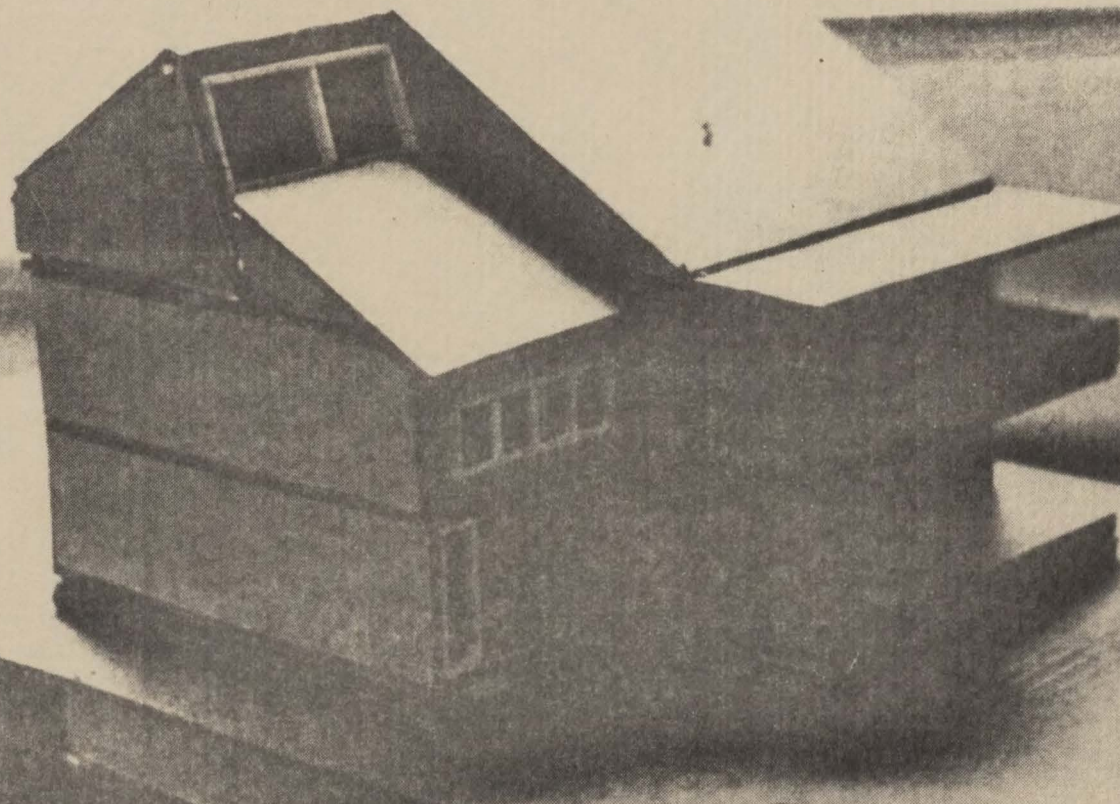
NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

JANUARY

- ☐ Rediscovery education team formed and program organized with Gar Hargens, architecture students, Craig Beddow, Jeff Zoller, Sara Schmanski and Bill Rosenblum, Sup't. Charles Evans, and social studies teacher Luther Rossow, whose two senior classes will be involved.
- ☐ Final review of group projects. Individual projects selected for second semester.
- ☐ Rediscovery team to review general program and presentation.
- ☐ Presentation given to social studies students as part of their environmental unit. Group projects discussed.
- ☐ Group projects reviewed.

Lake
Crystal



WHAT IS PLANNED FOR REST OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR

The major efforts remaining this quarter are the completion of data gathering and the development of community charettes. Charettes will be intensive, several-day long meetings involving residents, students, and UDATs. The teams hope to use the charettes as techniques for involving additional people in the planning process, to brainstorm design projects and implementation schemes, and to emerge with a clear set of goals and expectations for the upcoming two quarters.

At this point, it is assured that winter and spring quarters will be used to develop the ideas introduced in the charettes. These may involve additional study as well as physical planning, design and suggestions for implementation.

HOPES FOR NEXT YEAR

This project is seen as an ongoing teaching and service component of the University. Additional support monies must be secured. The backlog of community requests and inquiries from new communities indicates the viability of Project Rediscovery as a service component. Enthusiastic student response indicates its value as a teaching program. It also suggests the value of funding to carry projects through the summer rather than stop at the end of the academic year. This would allow new projects to begin at various times of the year without a summer interruption.

(PROGRESS REPORT)
Project Rediscovery - Oct 31, 1974.

COPY 2

URBAN EDUCATION CENTER